

The Union Customs Code (UCC)

Malta Customs has been working to upgrade its current IT systems and introduce new systems for further trade facilitation and to fulfill the provisions of the UCC that is to provide a paperless system for customs formalities. The [Union Customs Code \(UCC\)](#) envisages the use of Information Technology for all customs related formalities. It shall be mandatory to use electronic processing techniques for the exchange and storage of information between:

- Customs authorities
- Customs authorities and Economic Operators

By 2025 there should be a uniform application of the UCC across all Member States including the use of internationally accepted data models and message formats. For this purpose, the EU Commission has set out its plans and timescales for IT development in:

- https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/union-customs-code/ucc-work-programme_en (The UCC Work Programme); and
- https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/electronic-customs_en Multi Annual Strategic Plan (MASP)

These documents are being regularly updated by the EU Commission.

Information on the Phase 5 version of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS P5).

NCTS plays a crucial role as the digital backbone for electronic transit declarations between the EU Member States - and Andorra and San Marino - (Union Transit) and Member States of EFTA (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) and Turkey, North Macedonia, Serbia, and the UK (Common Transit). The procedure is based on the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a Common Transit regime with the applicable rules similar to those established for the Union Transit regime.

The trans-European system NCTS P5 (which will connect the systems of different Contracting Parties) aims to implement the requirements of the UCC regarding transit declarations. To this end, it seeks to continue developing the current trans-European transit declaration system (NCTS P4) in order to fully implement a computerised transit system (NCTS P5) that covers the requirements that companies must comply with in terms of processes and data contemplated in the UCC, including coverage of simplified procedures and the submission of pre-declarations when the goods are not yet at the disposal of Customs.

It also covers the development of harmonised interfaces with the New Automated Export System (AES P1), to cover cases where the export regime is followed by the transit regime (EFBT: Export Followed By Transit).

NCTS P5 pursues the following objectives:

- Update existing functionalities to adapt them to the UCC (Union Customs Code).
- Add new features to improve trade facilitation and automation of processes provided for in the legislation.

- Better interconnection of existing application with national / international application
- Achieve better monitoring and supervision of customs procedures, with a view to minimising fraud and protecting the EU's financial and economic interests.
- Use of a new dataset for the transit declaration, in accordance with the Union Customs Code. Although some of the information/data required to complete transit declarations remains the same as that used in NCTS P4, there will be new data to be added, while 'data fields' are replaced by 'data elements', according to the EU customs data model (EUCDM).

EU Customs Data Model (EUCDM)

The EU Customs Data Model represents the data requirements specified in the EU customs regulations in a data model. It is thus the implementation of the customs code and the model for trans-European systems such as NCTS, AES, ICS, EOS and for the national clearance systems of the EU Member States. Its overall objective is to provide a common methodology and approach that models the data requirements according to the Union Customs Code (UCC)

More information on the EUCDM can be found on the following webpage: https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/union-customs-code/eu-customs-data-model-eucdm_en

Training on NCTS P5 for Economic Operators

Customs Operations will be giving training to economic operators on the new transit system. The UCC-compliant version of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) Phase 5 is scheduled for introduction beginning December 2024. Economic Operators will now be able to, amongst other new functions, lodge transit declarations directly from their office into NCTS. Selected personnel nominated by Economic Operators will be offered training on the new system.

This training is designed for the Economic Operator, the person who lodges the transit declaration, or on whose behalf that declaration is lodged, or the person to whom the rights and obligations in respect of a customs procedure have been transferred. The Holder of the Transit Procedure is considered the owner of the transit movement.

It is crucial that Economic Operators attain a sound background and competency in both the transit procedure and the transit electronic system (NCTS) prior to undergoing the in-house training on NCTS P5 that will be provided by Customs Operations by following the appropriate e-Learning courses on the Customs & Tax EU Learning Portal. Note that the completion of these modules is mandatory for all participants, and nominees must provide proof that they have carried out the UCC e-Learning modules (links to these modules are provided @ 2. E-Learning). Nominees must keep a screenshot of the results as proof of having completed these modules.

The dates scheduled for the training sessions, application forms, the composition of the groups and the training venue will be transmitted to economic operators via our generic email and the Customs Portal. Economic operators requiring clarification prior to this are requested to send an e-mail to Ms Rachele Fiorini on transit.mtca@gov.mt